progress and it is hoped that water will be let down the channel in the near future.

The question of the introduction of steam navigation in the Travancore canals and backwaters is still under consideration. The formation of a Canal subdivision sanctioned during the year under review was given effect to recently.

Marahmut Department.—The expenditure incurred by this department amounted to Rs. 3,39,237. The outlay was mostly on repairs to existing buildings connected with palaces and religious institutions.

15. **Anchal.**—The number of Anchal offices was 150 as in the previous year while that of letter-boxes was 184 or one less than in 1080. Over 56 lakhs of covers, official and private, passed through the offices during the year, showing an increase of over 1½ lakhs. 78,789 hundies were issued for Rs. 10,50,552. Two new denominations of stamps, *i. e.*, 4 cash and 6 cash stamps were introduced during the year for private cards and newspapers.

16. **Devaswoms.**—The reports of the two special officers appointed last year for the compilation of *padivus* and the investigation of the question of purificatory ceremonies in temples have been recently received and are receiving attention.

17. **Separate Revenue.**—The excise system continued in the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions while the farming system was in force in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions. At the end of the year the triennial lease expired in the latter two Divisions and opportunity was taken to extend the excise system to the Quilon Division from the beginning of the current year. But the Kottayam Division continues to be worked under the farming system as there are practical difficulties in working the excise system in that Division. The excise system in regard to opium and bhang worked during the year and resulted in an increase of revenue.

Salt.—The out-turn of home salt was 2,91,444 maunds. The sales of home and foreign salt were 8,21,001 maunds against 7,83,547 in 1080. Though there was an increase in the quantity of salt sold, the revenue showed a falling off of Rs. 1,39,480 which was due to reduction in the duty.

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